

Lyme Valley House Limited

Lyme Valley House Residential Care Home

Inspection report

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Newcastle Under Lyme
Staffordshire
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31 January 2022

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03 March 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Lyme Valley House Residential Care Home is a care home for up to 26 people, some of whom may be living with dementia. The service is provided in one building, arranged over two floors, with three communal lounge areas, a dining room, a conservatory and a hairdressing salon. At the time of this inspection 21 people used the service.

We found the following examples of infection control practice.

Following a recent COVID-19 outbreak people who had tested positive for COVID-19 were found to be mixing with people who had tested negative. We found the registered manager had made improvements following this outbreak however they needed to ensure people had robust risk assessments in place where they were not able to isolate due to living with dementia. The provider's infection control and COVID-19 policy required updating to reflect current government guidance around COVID-19.

People were supported by staff who wore appropriate protective clothing such as masks, gloves and aprons. Staff were observed to change their masks regularly to reduce the risk of transmission. People were supported by staff who had all been double vaccinated against COVID-19.

People and their relatives were kept up to date around visiting within the home by the registered manager. People had access to healthcare professionals in the form of a virtual weekly ward round.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

Inspected but not rated

Lyme Valley House Residential Care Home

Detailed findings

Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. This inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

We received information of concern about infection prevention and control measures at this service. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection prevention and control measures the provider has in place. We also asked the provider about any staffing pressures the service was experiencing and whether this was having an impact on the service.

This inspection took place on 31 January 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 1 hours notice of the inspection.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- Following a recent inspection by the Local Authority infection control team changes had been made to how the service will support people safely in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19. We recommend these are reviewed to ensure risk assessments are completed where people are unable to isolate do to living with dementia.
- The provider's infection control and COVID-19 policy required updating to ensure this reflects current Government COVID-19 guidance.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.

Staffing

- The provider told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures.

Visiting in care homes

From 11 November 2021 registered persons must make sure all care home workers and other professionals visiting the service are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an exemption or there is an emergency.

- The service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff were vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The registered manager had a system in place for people to receive visitors of their choosing in a safe way.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.